

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification is amended to correct a minor typographical error on page 37.

The Abstract is amended to improve readability. Moreover, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion in a discussion with Applicants' representative on May 3, 2006, the amendments to the Abstract are shown on a separate page with a "page break."

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-14 will be active.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10-11 are amended.

Claims 12-14 are added.

Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found on page 16, line 13-17 and in original Claim 3.

Support for the amendment to Claim 2 is found on page 29, lines 23-24.

Support for new Claims 12-14 is found on page 32 of the present specification text.

The remaining amendments are intended to improve readability and are believed to be supported in the originally filed disclosure.

No new matter is believed to be added upon entry of the amendment.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejection of any one of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), over the disclosure of U.S. 5,411,792 ("US '792") is respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that the fifteenth embodiment of US '792 discloses that the ITO coating liquid was applied onto a base board, which is a heat-resisting polyimide film, and then heat treated at high temperature of 400°C. The transparent conductive layer thus obtained was compressed at 100 kgf/cm by using a roller, subsequently heat treatment was performed again at high temperature of 400°C.

That is, the PET film on which the transparent conductive layer was to be formed was not yet present when the compression at 100 kgf/cm was performed.

After the compressing and heat-treating, an overcoat liquid was applied onto the transparent conductive film. The base board was bonded to a PET film i.e. to a base plate member. The bonding was carried out under a pressure of 2 kgf/cm by using a steel roller. After the bonding, ultraviolet rays were irradiated and then the base board was peeled off.

In this way, in the transfer operation, a very low pressure, namely 2 kgf/cm, was given only for the purpose of bonding; the base board could finally be peeled off by curing the overcoat with the ultraviolet rays irradiation.

This is in contrast to Claim 1 of the present application, in which both of a transfer support and a support on which a functional layer is to be formed are already present between a pair of rolls of a roll press machine at the time of compression. Therefore, the compression of a layer of functional fine particles and the transfer of the layer from the transfer support to the support occur simultaneously.

In US '792, sintering at high temperature and irradiation of the ultraviolet rays are necessary; and the transfer of the compressed layer from the polyimide film to the PET film occur only after these sintering and UV irradiation.

As can be seen from the above, the pending Claim 1 comprises a manufacturing feature which is entirely different from the feature disclosed in US '792.

Since US '792 requires a step of sintering at high temperature of 400°C after performing the compression at 100kgf/cm, it is impossible to use a film like PET film which does not have a heat resistance property. Also, US '792 requires a step of curing the overcoat by irradiating the ultraviolet rays in order to transfer the ITO particle layer onto the PET film (the base plate member); therefore the obtained PET film is poor in flexibility. Further, US '792 requires multi steps for the compression and the transfer, which is inefficient.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that Claim 1 is neither anticipated by or obvious in view of the disclosure of US '792 for at least the reasons noted above.

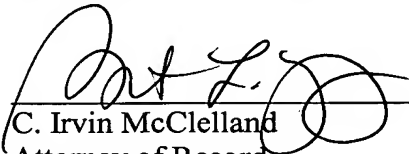
It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the same and withdraw this rejection.

Applicants believe that the amendments to the claims and to the specification obviate both the claim objections and the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd para., and the objection to the specification.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejections and objections and pass the present application to issue. Should the Examiner deem that a personal or telephonic interview would be helpful in advancing this application toward allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Irvin McClelland", is written over a horizontal line.

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